



**DIVISION OF MINES
BOARD OF COAL MINING EXAMINERS
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

TOP PERSON

Article 3 of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia establishes requirements for certification of coal mine workers. The certification requirements are included in §45.1-161.24 through §45.1-161.41 in which the Board of Coal Mining Examiners is established for the purpose of administering the certification program. The Board has promulgated certification regulations 4 VAC 25-20 (VR 480-04-2), which set the minimum standards and procedures required for Virginia coal miner examinations and certifications.

CERTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION: *Top Person*

This certification authorizes the holder to:

- Stay at the top of shaft collars, make preparations for miners entering the shaft and act as a communications link between employees in the shaft and hoist/crane operators

NOTE: This certification shall not be used in lieu of any other certification.

APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Application (BCME-1) and \$10.00 fee 5 working days prior to examination
- One year of practical mining experience with at least 30 days under the direction of a certified top person or appropriately related work experience approved by the Chief of the Division of Mines
- Hold a General Miner Certification, if required by law. Miners who have Virginia coal mining experience prior to January 1, 1996, and wish to obtain general miner certification must meet BCME requirement 4 VAC 25-20-255 A.1.2.3. or attend required general miner training.
- Current first aid training (MSHA first aid 5000-23 acceptable)

EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS: A score of 80% on each element of the examination

<u>ELEMENTS OF EXAM</u>	<u>NUMBER OF QUESTIONS</u>
▪ First Aid (MM)	20
▪ Top Person (TP)	40
▪ Combustible Materials	
▪ Communication	
▪ Duties	
▪ Equipment	
▪ General Requirements	
▪ Federal Regulations (FR)	20
▪ Gas Detection - practical demonstration	

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:

- Title 30 CFR Parts 50, 71, 75, 77
- Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia
- BCME Requirements
- Top Person Study Guide
- MSHA (Basic First Aid) Manual 3
- Mine Gases Packet

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The above mentioned study materials are available at the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Big Stone Gap Office, Customer Assistance Center (276) 523-8233 and Keen Mountain Field Office (276) 498-4533.

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